



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE
MAY 27 & JUNE 11, 2019, MEETINGS**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Conference automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2019 NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship: Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Women's Lacrosse Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Women's Lacrosse Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

Projected pool allocations

Pool A – 32

Pool B – 1

Pool C – 11

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. The 32 conferences meet the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.2 and have completed the automatic-qualification declaration form. Pool allocations may adjust pending 2019-20 sponsorship numbers.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Selection announcement - date and time.

- (1) Recommendation. Move the selection announcement to Monday at 10 a.m. Eastern time the week prior to the first/second round.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. Over the past few years, the committee has struggled to submit the bracket by the 7:30 p.m. deadline on Sunday for the selection announcement at 9:30 p.m.

In 2019, the selections were delayed 30 minutes (10 p.m.) due to the delays in championship games and in the selection process. With the addition of two teams to the bracket, and the expansion to seven regions, the anticipated delays will continue and could worsen.

Additionally, the committee felt rushed to finish selections and bracketing, not having a chance to review the bracket in depth or talk with other sport committees about possible hosting conflicts. The committee believes it is vital to have more time on Sunday evening and a chance to provide any final comments on Monday morning before releasing the bracket.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Meeting overview.** Starting in 2019, the annual meeting was divided into two parts. The in-person meeting took place on the Monday following the championship final at the site of the championship. The second part of the meeting was conducted via teleconference a couple weeks after the championship, in line with previous in-person annual meeting dates.
- 2. Review of 2018 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the reports from 2017-18 as submitted.
- 3. Governance updates.** The Division III governance staff submitted talking points for the committee to review. The committee worked through the document and needed no further information or discussion.
- 4. Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the bracket expansion and new regional alignment that will take place in 2019-20, including pool allocation possibilities and the number of regionally ranked teams.
- 5. Review of the 2019 championship.** The committee reviewed all aspects related to the 2019 championship.

- a. **Regional rankings.** The committee reviewed the current selection criteria and noted that it would like more criteria available for rankings and selections. The committee noted that when comparing teams across regions, there is little information to compare as most often teams are similar in regard to winning percentage and strength of schedule. So that often leaves only one category to make a decision. The committee felt that more categories could be added that would be relevant and help make a more informed decision.

The committee requests that the Championships Committee examine the criteria options available across all sports and possibly expand the options available to committees to use during selections. The committee noted that with the regional alignment changes, the need for more criteria should be even more of a priority.

Additionally, with the increase in bracket size and also the increase in regions from five to seven, the number of teams in each region has been lowered and balanced across the regions. The committee evaluated the percentage of teams to be ranked within each region and determined that 17% of teams from each region should be ranked. In 2018-19, the five regions ranked 42 teams - between seven and 10 teams per region (15%). In 2019-20, the committee recommends ranking 49 teams – between six and eight teams per region (17%).

- b. **Selections and bracketing.** The committee reviewed the selections and bracketing process for the championship and recommended moving the selection announcement to Monday morning (see Action Item 2-b).

The committee also changed the date for the RAC orientation call – moving the call up one week. The purpose of this was to then add a RAC training call for each of the individual RACs prior to the mock ranking. The committee felt this would allow the RAC to learn the software and processes prior to the mock, leaving more time on the mock call to focus on the priorities the committee considers during rankings.

- c. **Roster submissions.** The committee clarified the roster submission process. Previously the roster was required to be submitted at the administrative meeting at each site. However, the meeting times varied by site and so some were required to submit prior to practice and others after practices. For the sake of consistency, the committee decided that the form is due at 8 p.m. local time on Friday evening at every site regardless of the site having games on Saturday/Sunday or Sunday only. For sites with Friday contests, the deadline would move to Thursday at 8 p.m. local time.

d. Preliminary rounds.

- (1) Evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from the preliminary rounds and noted generally positive reviews. Hotels and travel continue to be an issue, though they seemed to be less than last year.
- (2) Game times. The committee began discussing host sites and schedules in coordination with the Men’s Lacrosse Committee, which has changed its tournament schedule to

include more first/second round weekend games. The committee will work with the Men's Lacrosse Committee to determine host priority by gender/year, along with practice and game times in regard to the possibility of a site hosting both genders. A finalized process for host selection and schedules will be included in future meeting reports.

e. Championship.

- (1) Evaluations. Surveys indicated positive feedback regarding the championship. Both Randolph-Macon and Richmond Tourism did a tremendous job in serving as host.
- (2) Host operations. The committee noted that RMC and Richmond worked together well and did a tremendous job operating the women's lacrosse championship.
- (3) Banquet. Overall, the committee enjoyed the banquet. No changes were suggested. The committee did note a need to supply a menu to hotels for breakfast, as there was some issue with the selections provided to the teams.
- (4) Practices and games. The committee reviewed the schedule of events, game presentation, attendance, awards ceremonies, weather, spectator giveaways, student-athlete gifts, lodging, web streaming and team forms. Overall, the committee was very satisfied with all of these areas.

- 6. Officials.** The committee agreed that the officials assignor, Melissa Coyne, provided great service and feedback during each round of the championship and assigned the best officials available to work Division III games in a very efficient manner. The committee did provide some feedback in regard to concern over the fourth official position and the duties they serve.

The committee would like to have access to head shots of the assigned officials for the championships to help with getting to know the officials and assist in reviewing the officials as well.

- 7. Weather.** The committee wants to work with the Sport Science Institute on creating a weather-related hydration break. The idea is to require a hydration break in the game schedule at a natural break in the game starting at the 16-minute mark of each half. The committee would work with the SSI to determine a temperature at which the break would be put into effect. Soccer has a hydration break in place using a wet-bulb temperature. The committee felt that temperature was too high and wants to consider a lower temperature. Members also want to know more about how artificial turf is a factor.

8. 2020 championship.

- a. Schedule of events.** The committee will work with Division I on the schedule of events in the summer/fall as the 2020 championship is a combined championship with Divisions II and III.

- b. **Bracket.** The committee reviewed the bracket format for 2020. Staff noted that the bracket will increase to a 44-team bracket.
 - c. **Site representatives.** The committee urged each regional chair to clearly emphasize on their first regional conference call that RAC members are expected to serve as preliminary-round site representatives unless extenuating circumstances preclude them from doing so. If they cannot serve as a site rep, the RAC member should arrange for another representative from their conference. Overall the process of securing site reps in 2019 was dramatically improved from 2019.
 - d. **Commencement conflicts.** The committee believes that game times and occasionally game days, could be adjusted for graduation, but members noted that they would make a good-faith effort in the future to accommodate teams that have submitted their paperwork on time regarding these conflicts. Graduation was much less of a conflict in 2019 than in years prior.
 - e. **STX Gifts.** The committee noted that teams no longer wanted the mini-sticks unless they can provide women’s style sticks. Some teams didn’t take their sticks and reacted negatively to the idea of providing a men’s mini-stick.
 - f. **Annual meeting.** The committee reviewed moving the annual meeting to the site of the championship. Members much preferred this schedule and will continue to host the annual meeting at the site of the championship. They did note that they will prefer to travel home on Tuesday morning, preventing the need to rush on Monday.
9. **National committee and regional advisory committee.** The committee selected Susan Hoffman to serve as chair of the committee for the second year in a row in 2019-20 (see Action Item 2-d). No current committee members are scheduled to roll off in 2019-20, but the committee will add two new members with the expansion to seven regions. Those members will be announced soon.
10. **Review of NCAA manuals.** The committee will be reviewing the championship manuals and timelines to make the recommended changes.
11. **Future meeting dates.** The 2020 annual meeting will be in Baltimore, Maryland, on Monday following the championship final.

Committee Chair: Susan Hoffman, College at Brockport, State University of New York.
Staff Liaison: Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.

Division III Women’s Lacrosse Committee May 27, 2019, In-Person Meeting and June 11, 2019, Teleconference
Attendees:
Kim Masimore, Dickinson College.
Kim Wenger, Northwest Conference.
Emily Fisher, University of Mount Union (via teleconference on May 27)

Susan Hoffman, College at Brockport, State University of New York.
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Patty Kloldt, Hamilton College (via teleconference on May 27).
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Absentees:

None.

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
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Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.
